

Wilene Bridger, Medical Power of Attorney for Joel Bridger
205 E. Nicklaus Avenue
Kalispell, MT 59901
January 8, 2011

Montana State Congress
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Cuts in funding for disabled

Dear Congressman,

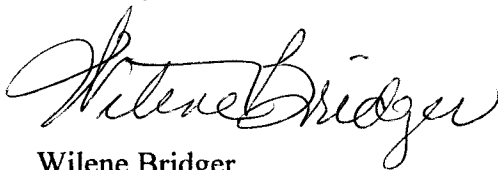
Our son Joel had a cancerous brain tumor in 1980. Radiation therapy saved his life. He was disabled, but was able to graduate from high school, work, and care for himself until 2000 when the radiation began to cause severe problems. Since then he has suffered brain tumors, strokes, brain aneurysms, multiple surgeries, and increasing loss of life quality. At this time he is on Hospice care, unable to move or feed himself. He lives in a traumatic brain injury unit of Beehive Assisted Living in Missoula where he receives wonderful care, feels like he is at home, and is allowed to feel independent and maintain his dignity. All these things are essential for any 33 year old man.

Thank you for funding Home and Community Based Services case management help for Joel all these years which helped him to find employment and made him feel like a useful part of society as well as a multitude of other services. Thank you for Medicaid help that has paid for medical procedures and medications. Thank you for Medicaid Waiver funding that has allowed him to live in a place he loves rather than in a nursing home. Thank you for the HAB personnel funding that has allowed someone to come in to feed Joel and give him speech and movement exercises.

Joel is only one of so many who are totally dependant on these services. They are without any resources other than what you have already allotted. They don't live richly. They barely have what they need. If funding for these services is cut, where will they get help? Please keep the funding for these programs as it is.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Wilene Bridger